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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

NFAC 2118-79
24 April 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment
National Intelligence Officer for Warning

FROM: National Intelligence Officer for Nuclear Proliferation

SUBJECT: Monthly Warning Report--Nuclear Proliferation ☐

1. Action Requested: None; for your information and possible comments only. ☐

2. Background: I chaired a meeting of the Interagency Intelligence Working Group on Nuclear Proliferation on 20 April to discuss items for warning. The main points of discussion are contained in the attached report. ☐

John Despres
John Despres

Attachment

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NFAC 2118-79
24 April 1979Monthly Warning Report: Nuclear Proliferation Of Increased Concern

1. South Africa. The South African Government may now be reviewing its policy toward the stockpiling of weapons-usable uranium, nuclear explosive testing, and the production of nuclear weapons. This judgment is based on several recent developments:

--Botha expressed his personal indignation and defiance against Western policy toward South Africa by broadcasting his expulsion of US Air Attaches.

--Botha continues to serve as Minister of Defense (with administrative control over weapons research and development, presumably including some follow-on to past work on nuclear explosive devices) and seems to be considering a more independent strategy for South Africa's foreign policy.

Within the next few months, South African leaders are likely to acknowledge that the Safari research reactor is being refueled with enriched uranium that South Africa has produced on its own. They may also try to reassure domestic supporters that they have not foregone future options for nuclear weapons. And they may even reconsider the political-military merits and risks of resuming preparations for a nuclear weapons test program.

2. Brazil. FRG Chancellor Schmidt and President Figueredo seem to have settled points of potential dispute in implementing their bilateral agreement for nuclear cooperation, so significant steps toward the construction of a reprocessing plant are likely to be taken in the near future.

NOTE: This memorandum is one of a series produced monthly by NIO/NP. Its purpose is to review possible developments in the short-term future that would be damaging to US interests. Obviously many of these developments will not occur in the time frame or in the manner suggested, or will not occur at all.

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Of Continuing Concern

3. Pakistan, India, and Taiwan:

--Pakistan is likely to seek support for its "Islamic" nuclear program at the Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference (in Fez early in May), at the United Nations, and in other international fora. [REDACTED]

--Indian public opinion seems to have induced its leaders into considering all possible options for dealing with Pakistan's nuclear program. The policy review process underway seems likely to entail military preparations designed to prevent or offset Pakistan's acquisition of nuclear weapons. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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24 April 1979Distribution

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